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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Teruhiko IMOTO et al.**

Group Art Unit: 1745

Serial No.: **09/701,512**

Examiner: **Julian A. Mercado**

Filed: **November 30, 2000**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 5196

For: **HYDROGEN ABSORBING ALLOY FOR ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERY AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME, AND HYDROGEN ABSORBING ALLOY ELECTRODE FOR ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERY AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME**

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 24, 2002

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 25, 2002, Applicants amend the above identified application as follows:

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) A method of producing a hydrogen absorbing alloy for an alkaline storage battery, characterized in that a first step of obtaining particles of a hydrogen absorbing alloy having a crystal structure of a CaCu_5 type and represented by a composition formula $\text{MmNi}_x\text{Co}_y\text{Mn}_z\text{M}_{1-z}$ (in the formula, M is at least one element selected from aluminum and copper, x is a composition ratio of nickel and satisfies $3.0 \leq x \leq 5.2$, y is a composition ratio of cobalt and satisfies $0 \leq y \leq 1.2$, and z is a composition ratio of manganese and satisfies $0.1 \leq z \leq 0.9$, with the proviso that the sum of x, y, and z satisfies $4.4 \leq x + y + z \leq 5.4$), a second step of treating said particles of the hydrogen